

# Questions and Answers Regarding the Statewide Residency Technical Assistance Center Grant Request for Applications (RFA)

## February 10, 2023

### General Program questions

- Question:** Does the TA Center LEA applicant have to operate a grant funded Teacher Residency program?

**Answer:** No. The RFA states, “Eligible applicants for the Statewide Residency Technical Assistance Center Grant are local education agencies (LEAs) with experience expertly advising and supporting program leaders in a large and widely diverse field in best practices, minimizing costs to program participants, developing sustainability plans, and disseminating information.”
- Question:** Can the TA Center only support grant funded Teacher Residency and Counselor Residency programs?

**Answer:** No. The Technical Assistance Center may provide support to any teacher or school counselor residency program in the state.
- Question:** When will we know more about counselor residency programs and what we will need to do to support them?

**Answer:** The RFA for the School Counselor Residency Capacity Grant Program will be released by the end of February 2023. Commission staff and the Technical Assistance Center grantee staff will work together to learn from and support the experts in the field who are designing this new model of school counselor preparation.
- Question:** When applying as a consortium, does the Experience with Successful Teacher Residency Programs section apply to all entities in the consortium or just to the lead LEA applicant?

**Answer:** The application should contain a description of the experience each consortium partner has with successful teacher residency programs.
- Question:** Can we use the consortia to respond to question 1 (residency experience) and use one of the hubs as the fiscal lead?

**Answer:** As long as the “hubs” referred to in this question are LEAs and are named members of the proposed consortium, a representative from a “hub” may serve as the fiscal agent.

### Budget Questions

- Question:** Can budget line items be modified?

**Answer:** Appendix D states, “Once an application has been approved and a grant award has been disbursed, the LEA grantee may not alter the list of approved grant funded categories. Applicants are encouraged to think broadly about the spending categories that will support their intended program.” When completing the application, the

“Other” category can be used for any additional line items that are not already listed in the budget summary.

7. **Question:** How do we account for [grant fund] matching in the template provided?

There is currently no column in the template provided.

**Answer:** Authorizing legislation does not require matching funds from the grantee.

8. **Question:** Is there any guidance for the budget narrative? Or a template the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing can provide?

**Answer:** A template is not available. In narrative form, applicants are encouraged to list each line item for which grant fund expenditures are being proposed on Appendix D along with a detailed justification for each of those costs. Justifications should include a description of exactly how the grantee plans to use those funds to complete the activities included in the proposal.

9. **Question:** Are No Cost Extensions allowed?

**Answer:** The Commission will not disburse grant funds after June 30, 2029.

10. **Question:** If funds are not spent during the project period, is carry-over allowed?

**Answer:** Statute authorizes the Commission to disburse funds up until June 30, 2029.

The grantee LEA or consortium will have until June 2031 to liquidate funds disbursed prior to June 30, 2029, as described in the original application and in accordance with approved budgets.

11. **Question:** How should the budget be presented as the projected budget for each year is longer than one year?

**Answer:** The first disbursement of grant funds (40% of the total award) will be based on the figures indicated on Appendix D. Commission staff will work with the grantee in late spring 2024 to determine if adjustments are needed on the projected budgets for subsequent funding years.

12. **Question:** I have a question about the budget allocation. Does the 40-20-20-10-10 payout schedule and associated "years" as noted in the RFA mean that 40% would have been spent in the first 15 months, and only 20% of the award could be spent across the next 24 months (and so on)? Or can we budget for normal, fairly consistent expenditures in each fiscal year, but we just get a bigger payout at first and it can be used for expenses across a longer period of time than just the first 15 months.

**Answer:** The grant fund disbursement schedule detailed on page 9 of the RFA exclusively refers to when funds will be sent to the grantee. Applicants have the entire length of the project period (April 2023 – June 30, 2029) to spend all funds sent to them during the life of the grant.